

# STARBLAZER

FANTASY FICTION IN PICTURES

No. 245

30p



**ROGUE MANDROID**

A CARTER STORY

We at "Starblazer" want to bring you the very best in Fantasy Fiction. To do that we need *your* help.

So that we can produce the kind of stories you want to read, please fill in the questionnaire on this page and send it to "Starblazer", D. C. Thomson & Co. Ltd., 185 Fleet Street, London EC4A 2HS.

If you don't want to cut your issue of "Starblazer", you can copy the questionnaire onto a sheet of paper.

And there's a chance to win a full-colour print of one of our new-style wraparound covers!

The senders of the ten letters which we judge to be the most informative will each receive one of the prints. We want to hear from you NOW!

**Name** ..... **Age** .....

**Address** .....

What kind of science fiction do you most enjoy? Please tick appropriate boxes. If you dislike any type of story, place a cross in the box.

<b>SUPERHEROES</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>FANTASY</b>
<b>DUNGEONS</b>	<b>SWORD AND</b>
<b>AND DRAGONS</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>SORCERY</b>
<b>POST</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>HORROR</b>
<b>HOLOCAUST</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>STAR WARS</b>
<b>ADVENTURE</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>DR. WHO</b>
<b>HUMOUR</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>MYSTERY</b>

Where do you normally buy your STARBLAZER? \_\_\_\_\_

Which is your favourite STARBLAZER story? \_\_\_\_\_

Which is your favourite character? \_\_\_\_\_

Which is your favourite science fiction movie? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you any comments to make about STARBLAZER... good or bad? \_\_\_\_\_



# ROGUE MANDROID


32ND CENTURY ... ADVANCES IN SCIENCE HAVE TURNED THE GALAXY INTO PLANET EARTH'S BACK GARDEN, BUT MANKIND HAS STILL TO LEARN TO CONTROL THE PRIMEVAL INSTINCTS LATENT IN HIS OWN NATURE — WHICH EXPLAINS THE NEED FOR HIGHLY TRAINED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS SUCH AS CARTER AND NOLAN.

HANGING ABOUT A CUSTOMS POINT ON THIS PLANET ISN'T MY IDEA OF FUN.

LEO WORK ISN'T MEANT TO BE FUN ... AND THAT MAN LOOKS SUSPICIOUS.

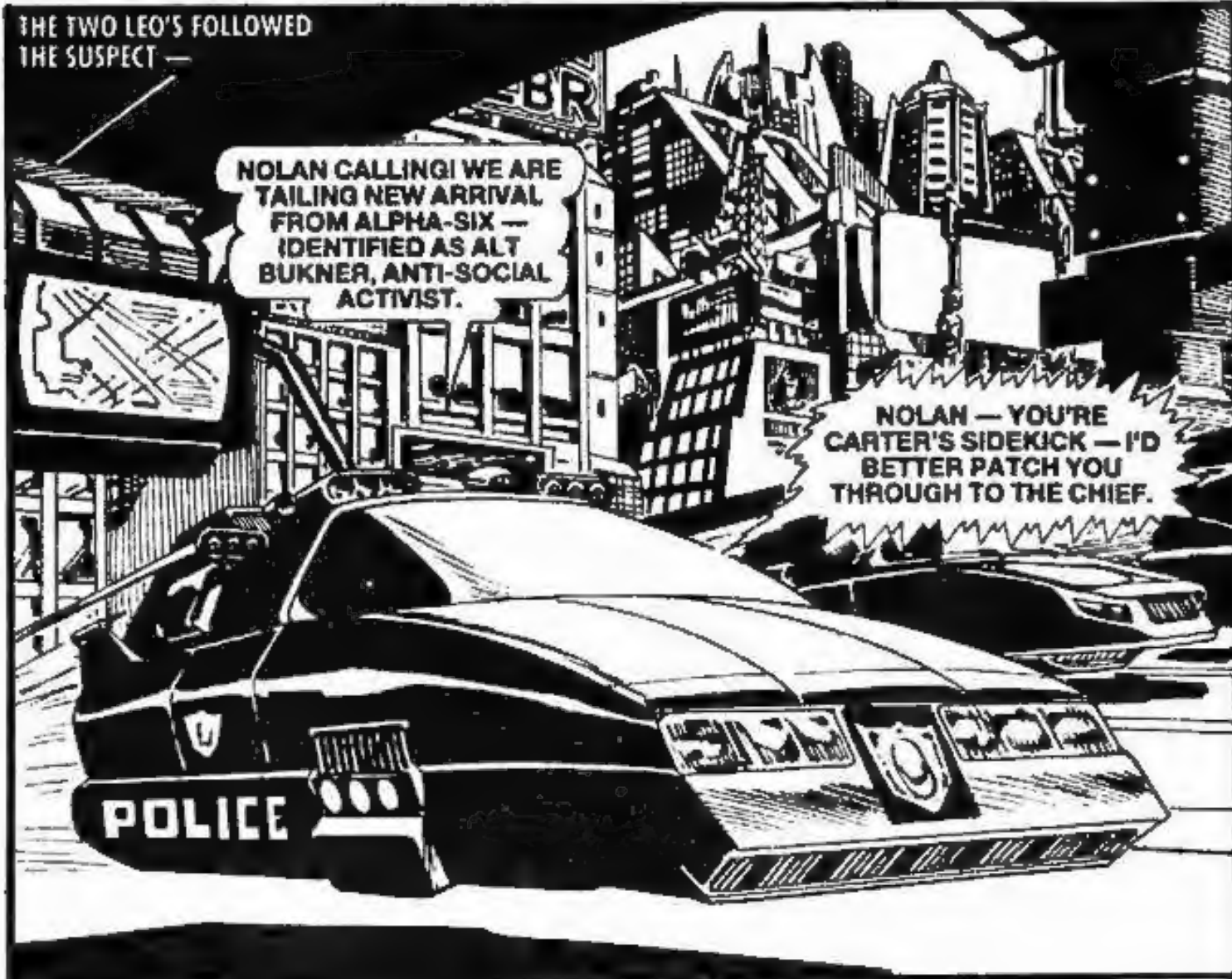


4  
CARTER HAD SPECIAL ABILITIES DUE TO  
RECONSTRUCTION AFTER AN ACCIDENT.



AN IMPLANT! IT GIVES OFF  
FALSE BRAINWAVES SO  
THAT THE USER CAN'T BE  
IDENTIFIED.

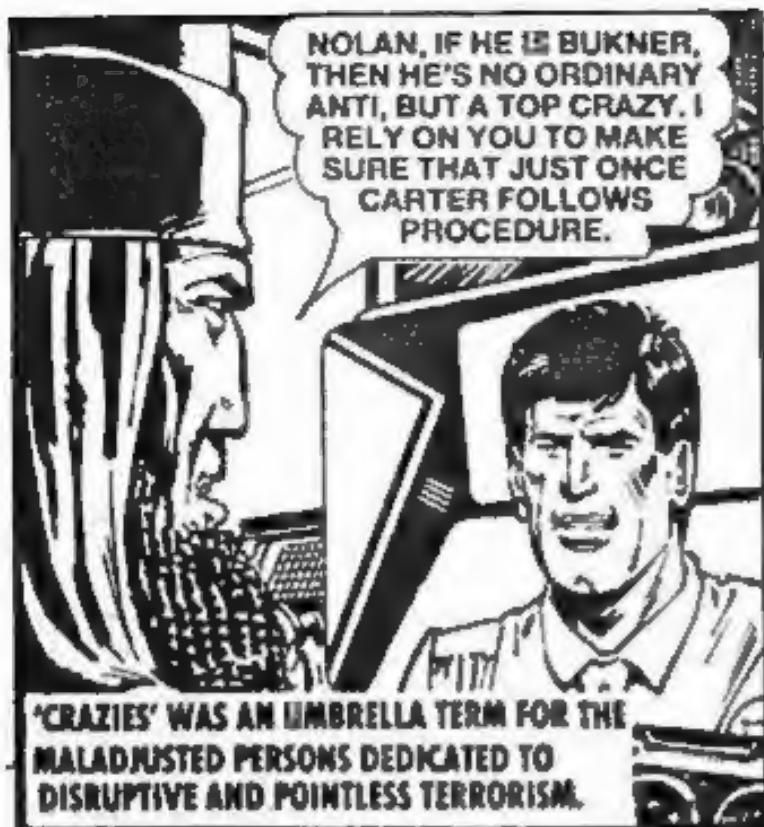
THE TWO LEO'S FOLLOWED  
THE SUSPECT —



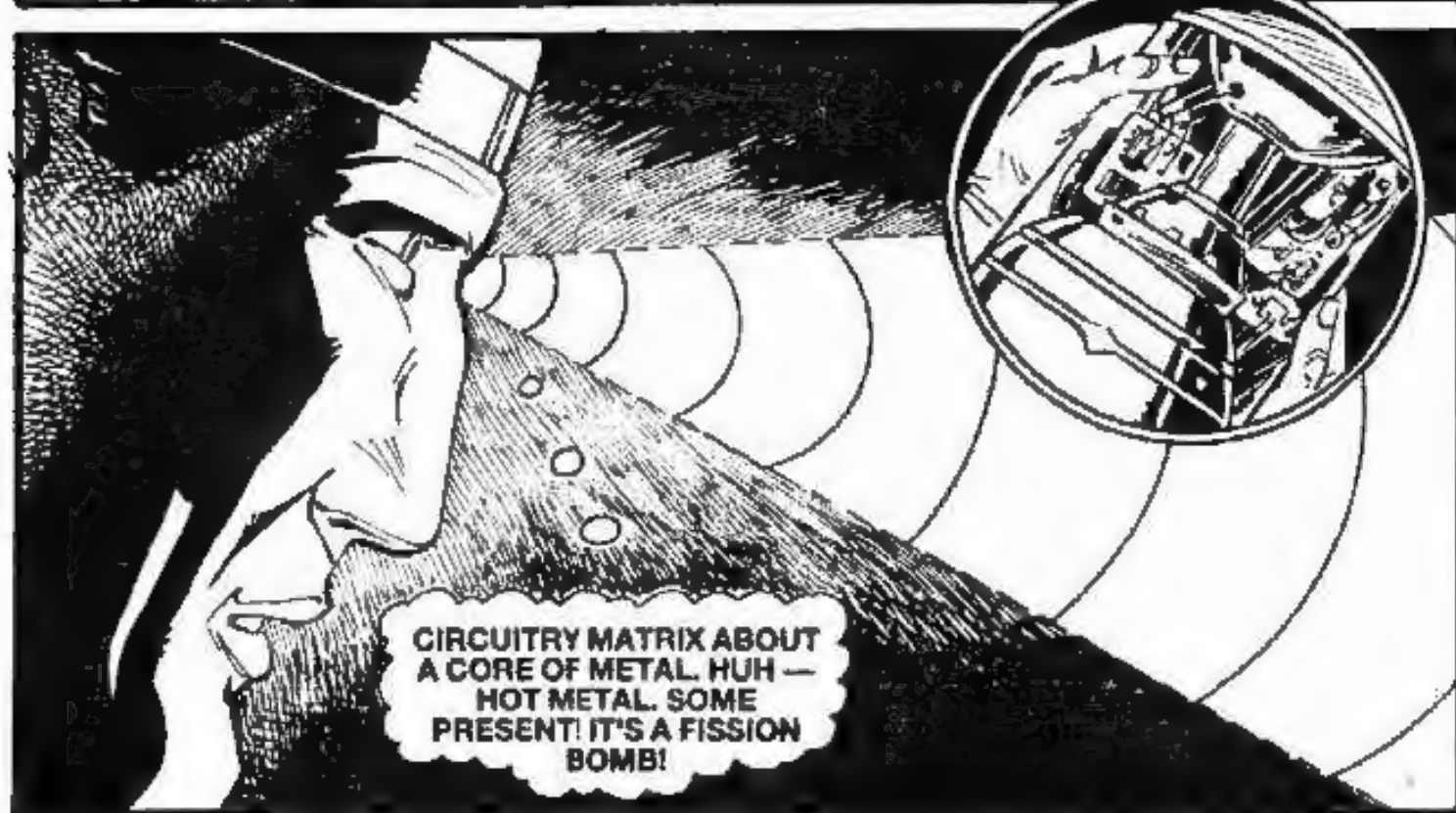
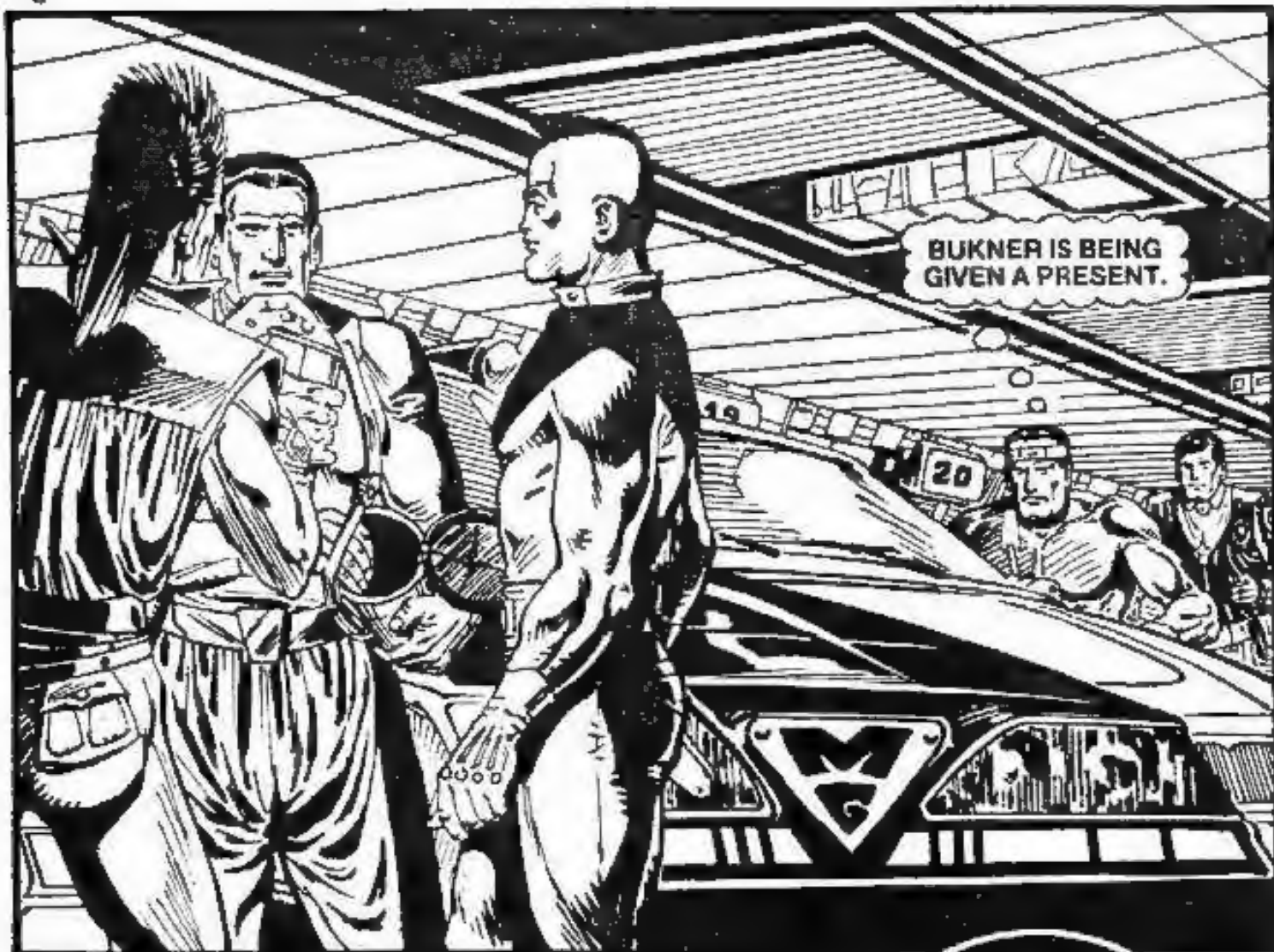
NOLAN CALLING! WE ARE  
TAILING NEW ARRIVAL  
FROM ALPHA-SIX —  
IDENTIFIED AS ALT  
BUKNER, ANTI-SOCIAL  
ACTIVIST.

NOLAN — YOU'RE  
CARTER'S SIDEKICK — I'D  
BETTER PATCH YOU  
THROUGH TO THE CHIEF.

POLICE









WEAPONS FLASHED, BUT  
CARTER'S BIONIC REFLEXES  
WERE THE QUICKEST ...



BUKNER DODGED  
AWAY, BUT HE MUST BE  
SOMEWHERE CLOSE.  
HOW COULD I HAVE  
MISSED A SIMPLE SHOT  
LIKE THAT?

CARTER'S AUDIOSENSORS GAVE HIM  
SUDDEN WARNING ...



HE'S BEHIND ME.











CARTER'S GONE CRAZY! HE'S JUST SMASHED UP ONE OF MY UNITS.

MY ARM MOVED WITHOUT MY WILLING IT. WHAT IS HAPPENING TO ME?

TAKE IT EASY, CARTER. WE'VE ORDERS TO ESCORT YOU TO THE BIOLAB.

THAT'S WHERE I INTEND GOING, BOYS. NO NEED FOR THE STUNNERS.

IN THE BIOLAB, CARTER'S SYNTHSKIN WAS REMOVED TO REVEAL HIS CIRCUITRY.

NO EVIDENCE OF MALFUNCTION.  
DIAGNOSIS — ERRANT  
BEHAVIOUR DUE TO  
SUBCONSCIOUS MENTAL  
IMPULSE.

YOU MEAN, I'M  
CRACKING UP! GREAT  
NEWS, DOC.



MAYBE REACTING TO  
STRESS, BUT WHAT I  
WILL DO IS REPLACE  
THE IMPLANT THAT  
CONTROLS YOUR  
RIGHT ARM.



HOURS LATER—

THE CHIP I EXTRACTED.

MIND IF I KEEP IT AS A  
SOUVENIR, DOC?









CARTER HEADED FOR THE SEAM — AN  
AREA OF THE CITY WHERE POLICE WERE  
NOT POPULAR ...

BURN ME IF IT ISN'T THE GREAT  
CARTER IN PERSON.

HI, CARTER! WE HEAR YOU'VE  
TAKEN TO BLASTING YOUR  
OWN FUZZ BUDDIES. KEEP UP  
THE GOOD WORK!

I'M JUST NOT IN THE MOOD FOR  
IDLE CHIT-CHAT!





DON'T RUN OUT  
ON ME, SPARKY.

CARTER! CAN'T YOU BLUES  
GIVE A MAN ANY PEACE? I  
SWEAR I HAVEN'T DONE  
ANY ILLEGAL  
PROGRAMMING SINCE MY  
LAST TRIP TO THE  
SLAMMER.







SPARKY STAKUS, ONE-TIME  
LECTURER IN MICRO-ELECTRONICS,  
BECAME BUSY...

I'VE SET UP A PROGRAMME  
TO RUN THE CIRCUIT READ-  
OUT THROUGH A COMPUTER  
AND THEN FOLLOW UP WITH  
AN INPUT OF CONTROL  
PULSES—

JUST GET  
ON WITH IT.

AN HOUR LATER...

**BiP  
BiP**

CARTER, COME LOOK AT THIS.  
WE'RE ON TO SOMETHING.



THE REGAL CRYSTAL HAS AN UNSTABLE MOLECULAR STRUCTURE WHICH CAN RESULT IN INSULATION FAILURE. THIS CAUSES IMPULSES THAT SHOULDN'T BE TRANSMITTED TO BE TRANSMITTED.

**BiP**

A REJECT ... BUT WHY ARE REJECTS IN USE?

CARTER ROUNDED UP THE DOCTOR AND WENT TO THE CHIEF —

CARTER! WHAT THE —

YOU'D BETTER LISTEN TO HIM, SIR. IT COULD BE IMPORTANT.

THE CHIEF LISTENED ...

**BiP**

CONTROL

MARK SOFT

MALFUNCTION DUE TO FAULTING NOT PREVIOUSLY FOUND IN THIS NEW CRYSTAL DESPITE STRINGENT TESTING, EH! A GRAVE ALLEGATION WHICH I AM PREPARED TO GIVE YOU THE CHANCE OF PROVING.





CARTER REACTED —





HELPLESS, CARTER WAS STRETCHERED OFF —

THAT WILL BE ALL, OFFICERS.  
NOW YOU MAY LEAVE ME WITH  
THE PATIENT.

AN ANTIDOTE TO RESTORE  
YOUR POWER OF  
LOCOMOTION — OF WHICH  
I TRUST YOU WILL NOT  
TAKE ADVANTAGE AND  
MISBEHAVE.

WHAT IS DOC  
GETTING AT?







CARTER TOOK OFF...

DOG'S FIVE MINUTES  
ARE JUST ABOUT UP.





ATTENTION ALL UNITS IN  
CENTRAL QUADRANT.  
BRING IN SUSPECT  
PRESUMED TRAVELLING IN  
STANDARD SERVICE  
PATROLLER. BE WARNED —  
SUSPECT IS OFFICER  
CARTER, DERANGED  
MANDROID.

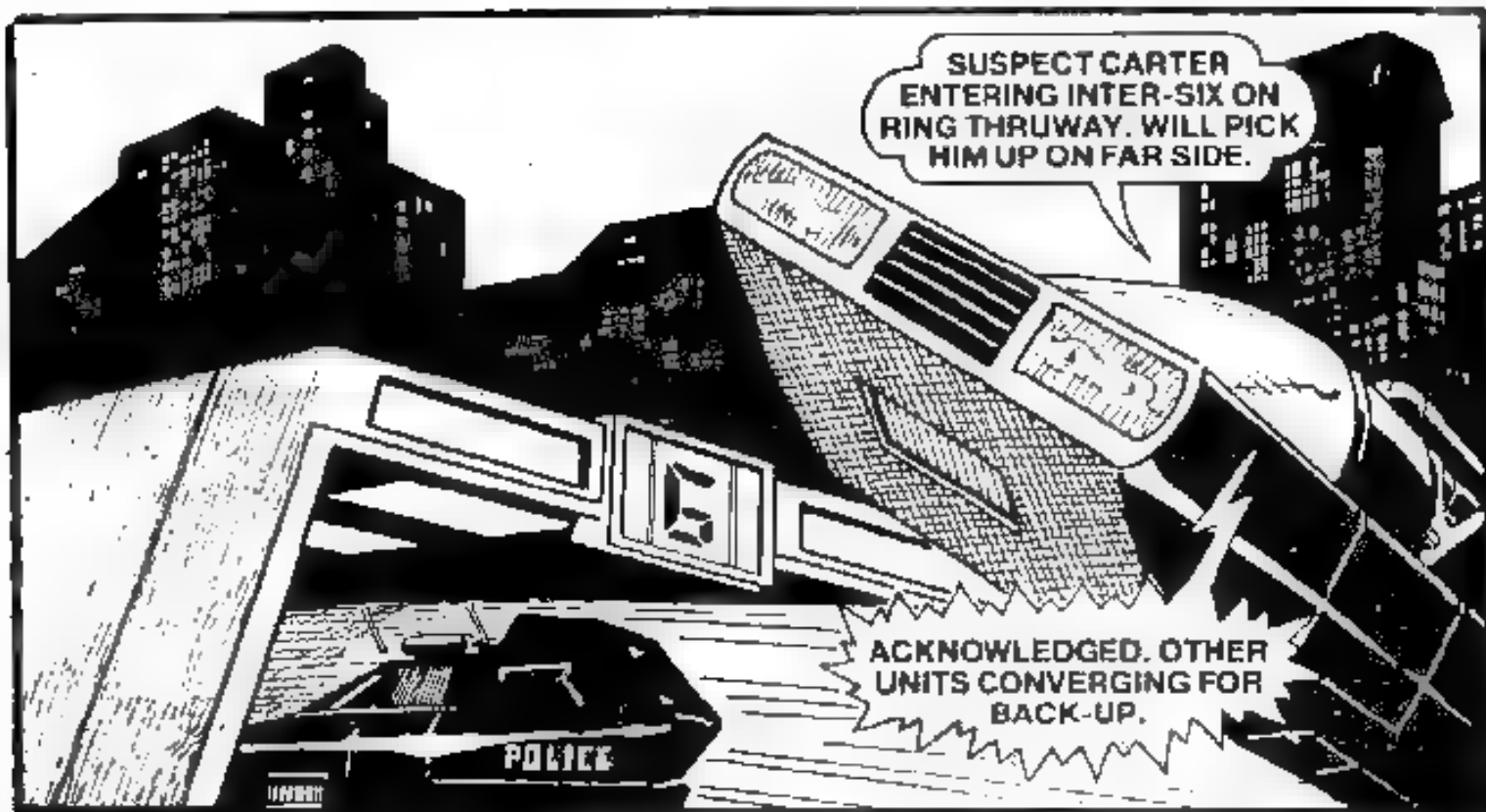


I'VE BEEN SPOTTED.

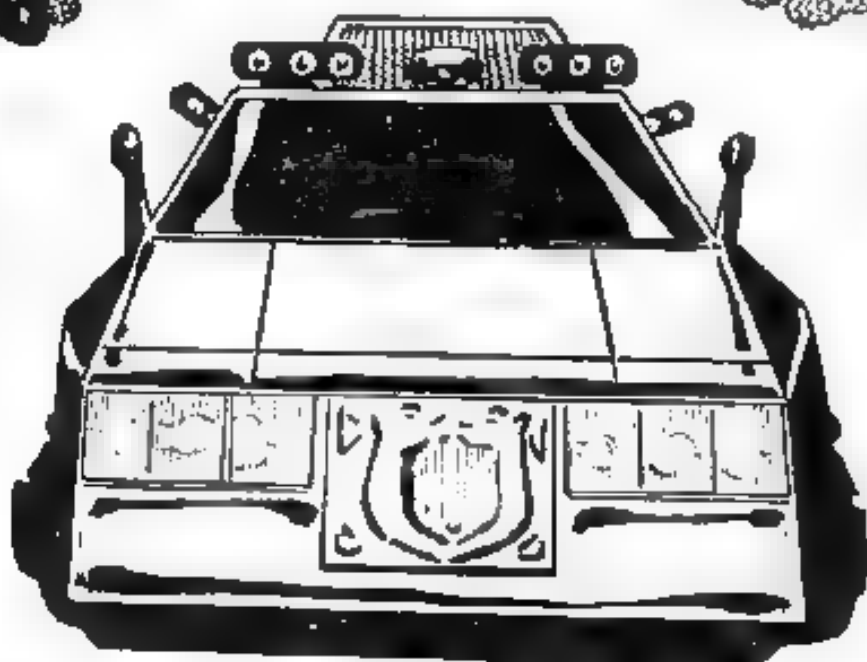


BETTER DUCK FOR COVER  
BEFORE MY CONTROLS ARE HIT  
BY A SNATCHBEAM.





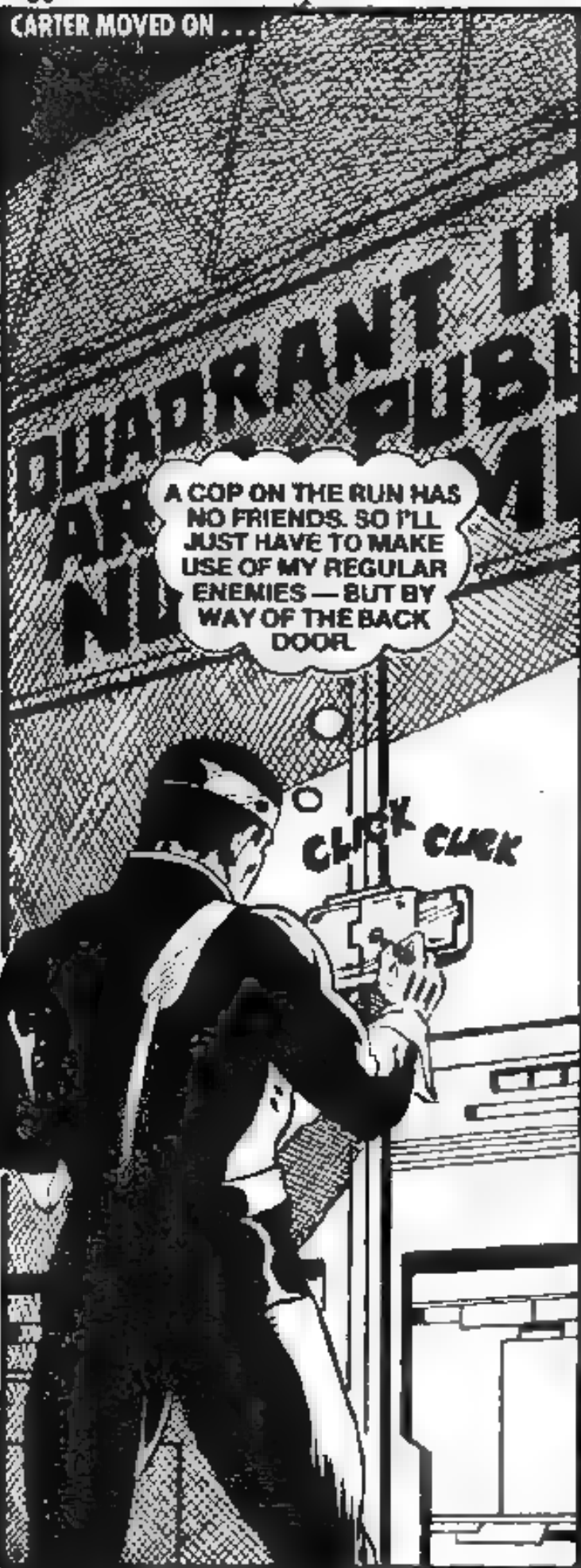
ALL SYSTEMS JAMMED —  
WE HAVE FULL CONTROL.  
SUSPECT NOT  
RESPONDING TO  
COMMUNICATION.  
ATTEMPT.





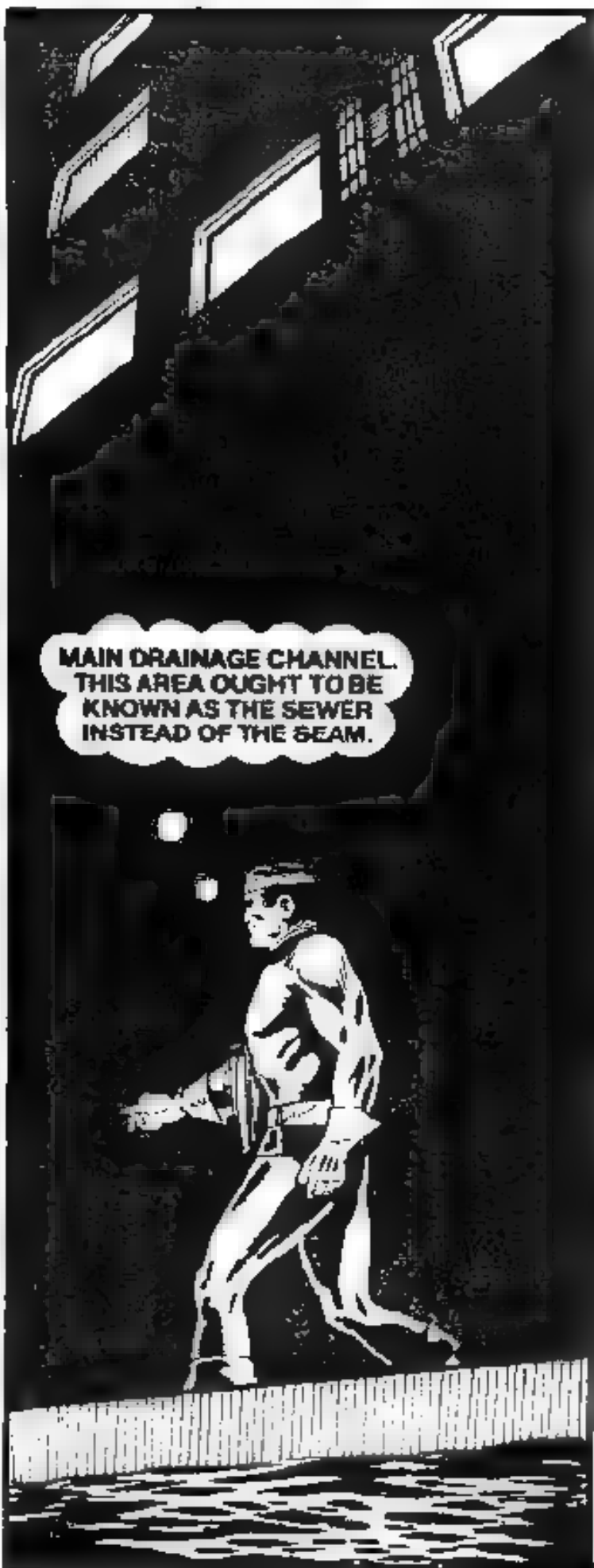


CARTER MOVED ON ...



A COP ON THE RUN HAS  
NO FRIENDS. SO I'LL  
JUST HAVE TO MAKE  
USE OF MY REGULAR  
ENEMIES — BUT BY  
WAY OF THE BACK  
DOOR.

CLICK CLICK



MAIN DRAINAGE CHANNEL.  
THIS AREA OUGHT TO BE  
KNOWN AS THE SEWER  
INSTEAD OF THE SEAM.





CARTER'S REFLEXES SAVED HIM, BUT NOT COMPLETELY...

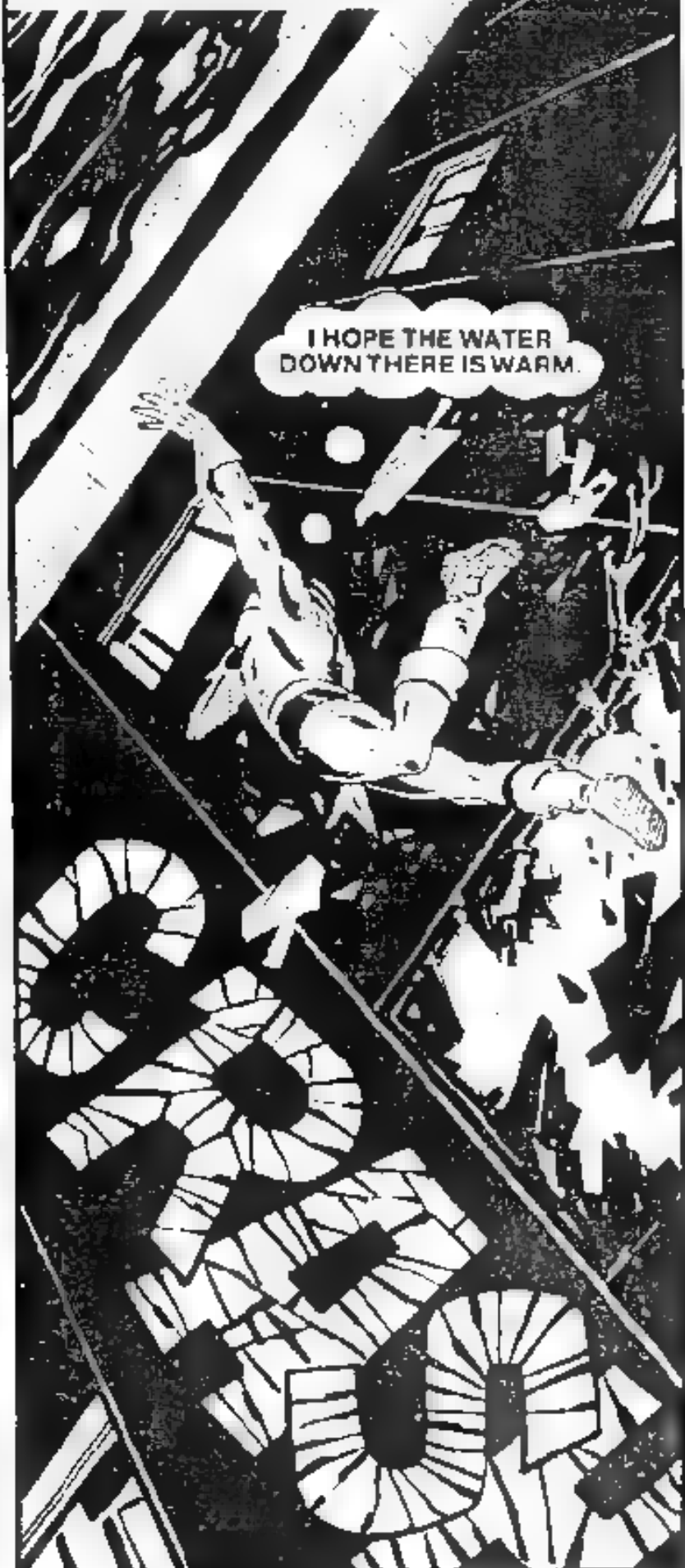




SPARKY STAKUS, ONE-TIME SCIENCE  
LECTURER, TOOK A LAST JOURNEY.



CARTER WENT THE OTHER WAY ...



I HOPE THE WATER  
DOWN THERE IS WARM.

IT WASN'T —

THE MAIN DRAINAGE — URGH!




**SPLASH**



HE MUST HAVE THE USE OF  
INFRA-RED! MINE  
FAILED . . . IT SHOULD HAVE  
PICKED HIM UP.



RODENT TERRITORY.



AND NOT ALL THE RATS  
HAVE FOUR LEGS.

HOW ABOUT THAT?  
WE GOT US A COP.

CARTER BROUGHT HIS BIONICS INTO PLAY...



I JUST WANT  
SOME INFORMATION.





TWO OF THE CRIMOS SCUTTLED AWAY —

AN OLD CHEMICAL  
COMBUSTION HANDGUN.  
CRUDE, BUT ADEQUATE  
FOR TAKING OFF THE HEAD  
OF A SEWER RAT.

ER... WHAT WERE YOU  
WANTING TO KNOW?

NOW WE'RE UNDER  
CENTRAL QUADRANT HQ —  
THE MAIN COPSHOP. LOTS  
OF GOOD STUFF GETS  
WASHED DOWN FROM  
THERE.

CARTER WANTED TO KNOW  
WHERE SOMEBODY  
STAYED —


I MUST REMEMBER TO  
COMPLIMENT THE CHIEF  
ON THE QUALITY OF OUR  
GARBAGE.



CARTER SURFACED IN NIGHT...



OFFICER, CAN I HAVE MY GUN BACK? I NEED PROTECTION.



THIS IS THE PLACE! NOW TO  
FIND OUT IF MY DATABASE IS  
PROPERLY FUNCTIONING  
AND CAN GIVE ME THE  
SECURITY ON THIS LOCALITY.





LATER ...

INADEQUATE QUALITY OF NERVE LINKAGE, BUT AT LEAST YOU HAVE AN ARM OF SORTS. NOW I WOULD LIKE TO SHOW YOU A REASON WHY THE CHIEF MAY BE ACTING SO SEVERELY.

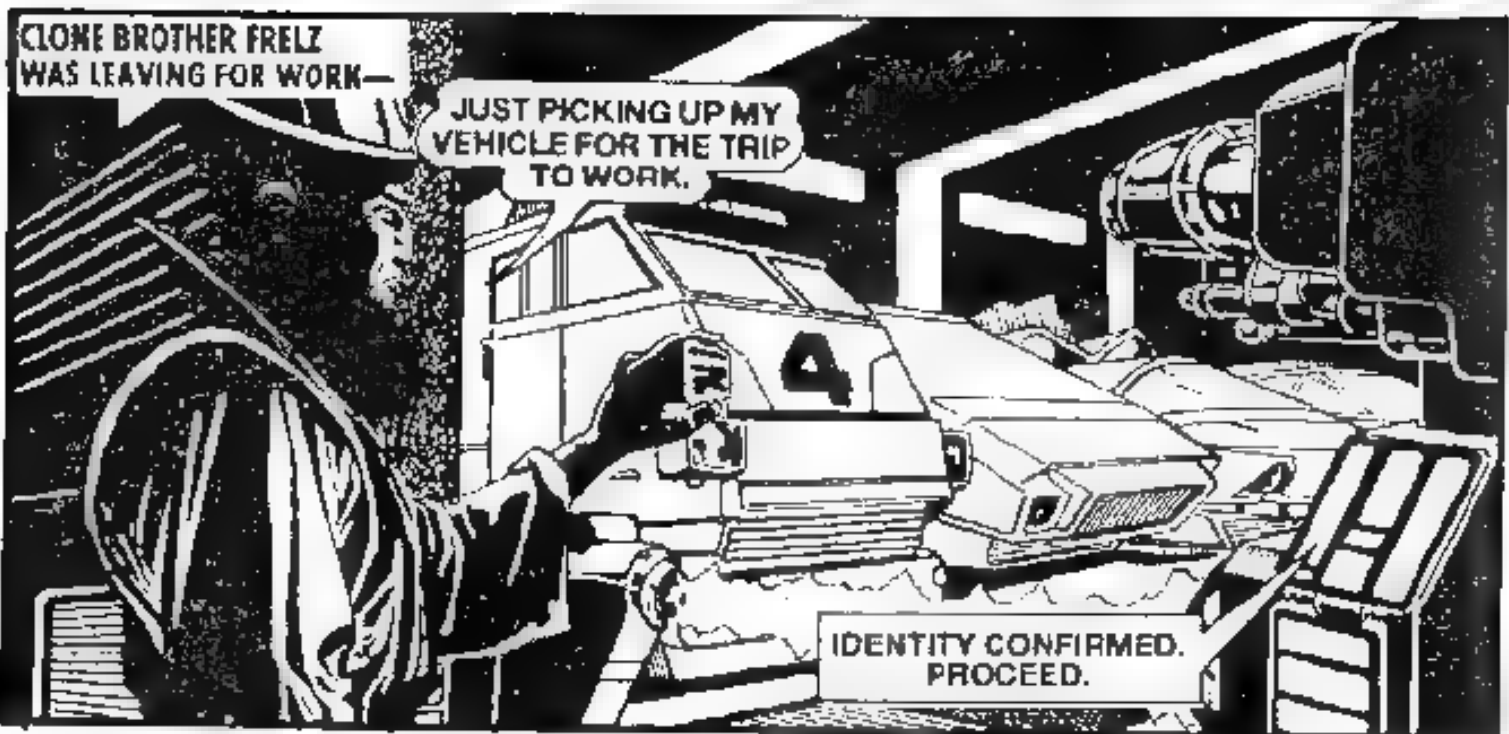
ONE OF THE CHIEF'S CLONE BROTHERS — WHO JUST HAPPENS TO BE IN CHARGE OF ORDERING SUPPLIES FOR THE FORCE.

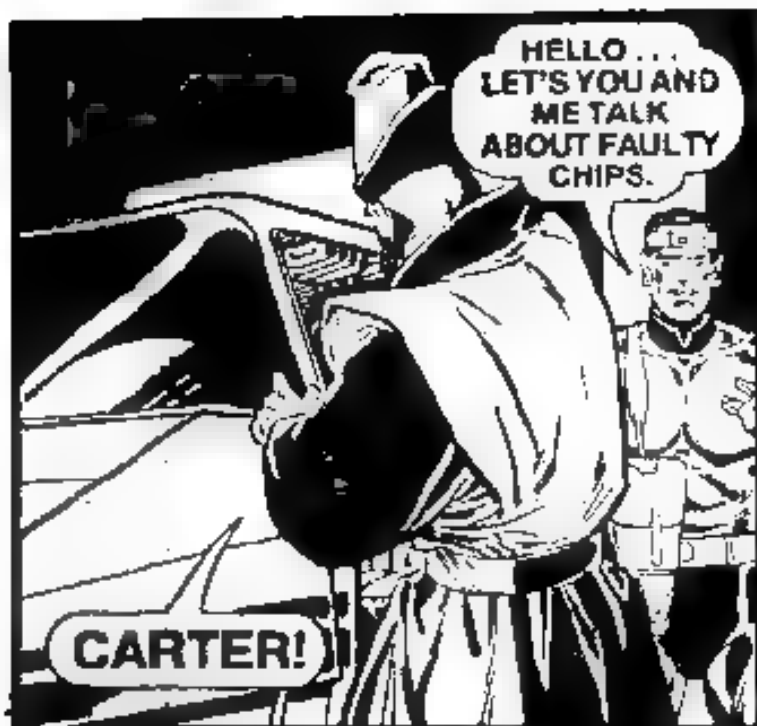
SO THE CHIEF MAY BE COVERING UP A MISTAKE BY HIS CLONE. HUM! MIGHT BE AN IDEA TO PATCH INTO THE DUTY ROSTER.

CARTER LEFT BEFORE DAWN —

KNOW SOMETHING, CARTER? IF YOU WERE A BIT MORE HUMAN I MIGHT QUITE LIKE YOU!

IF I WERE A BIT MORE HUMAN I WOULDN'T BE IN THIS MESS...







CARTER CRUMPLED — CONSCIOUS, BUT HELPLESS...





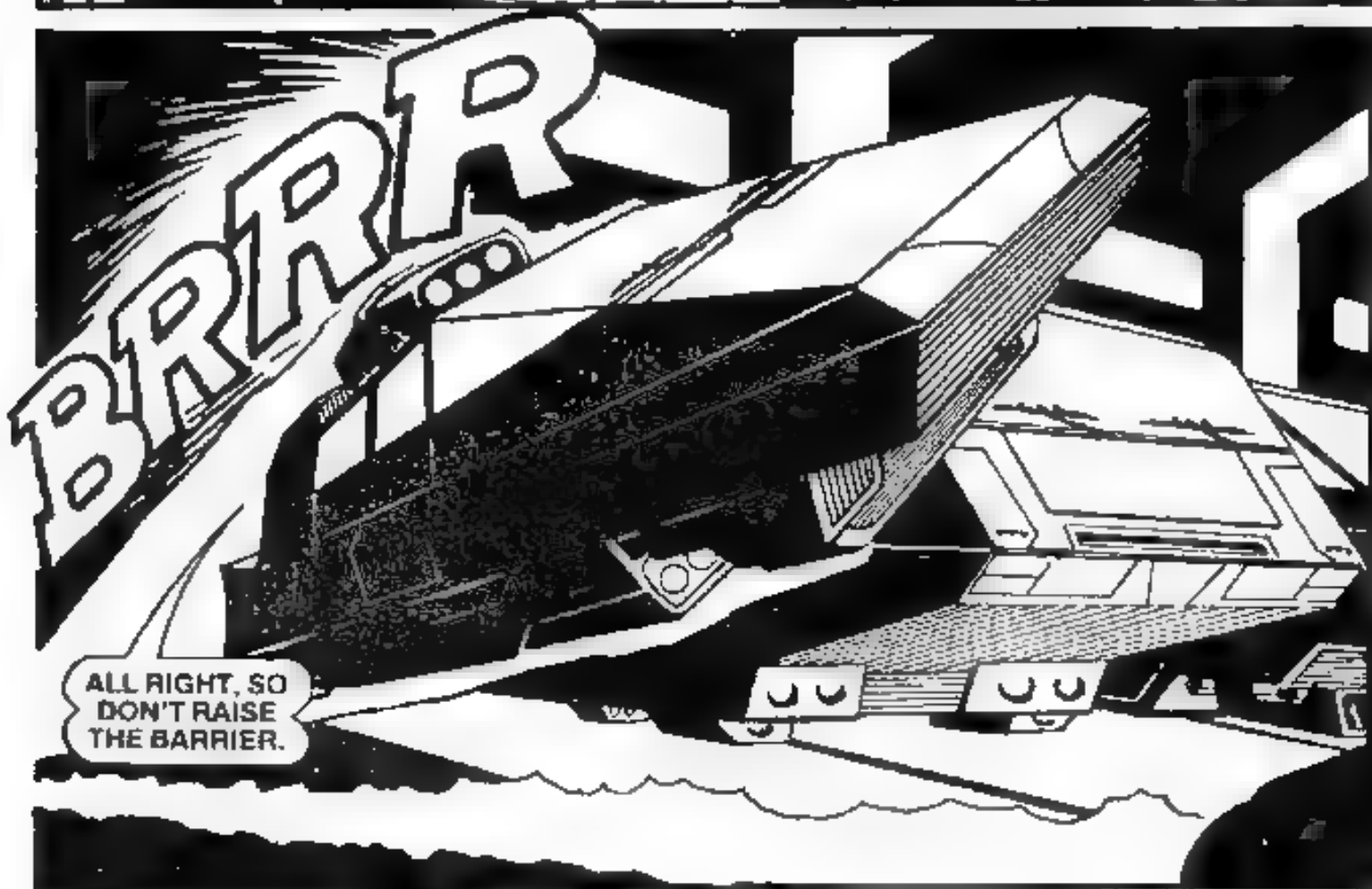
CARTER WAS CARRIED IN  
THE CLONE'S VEHICLE.

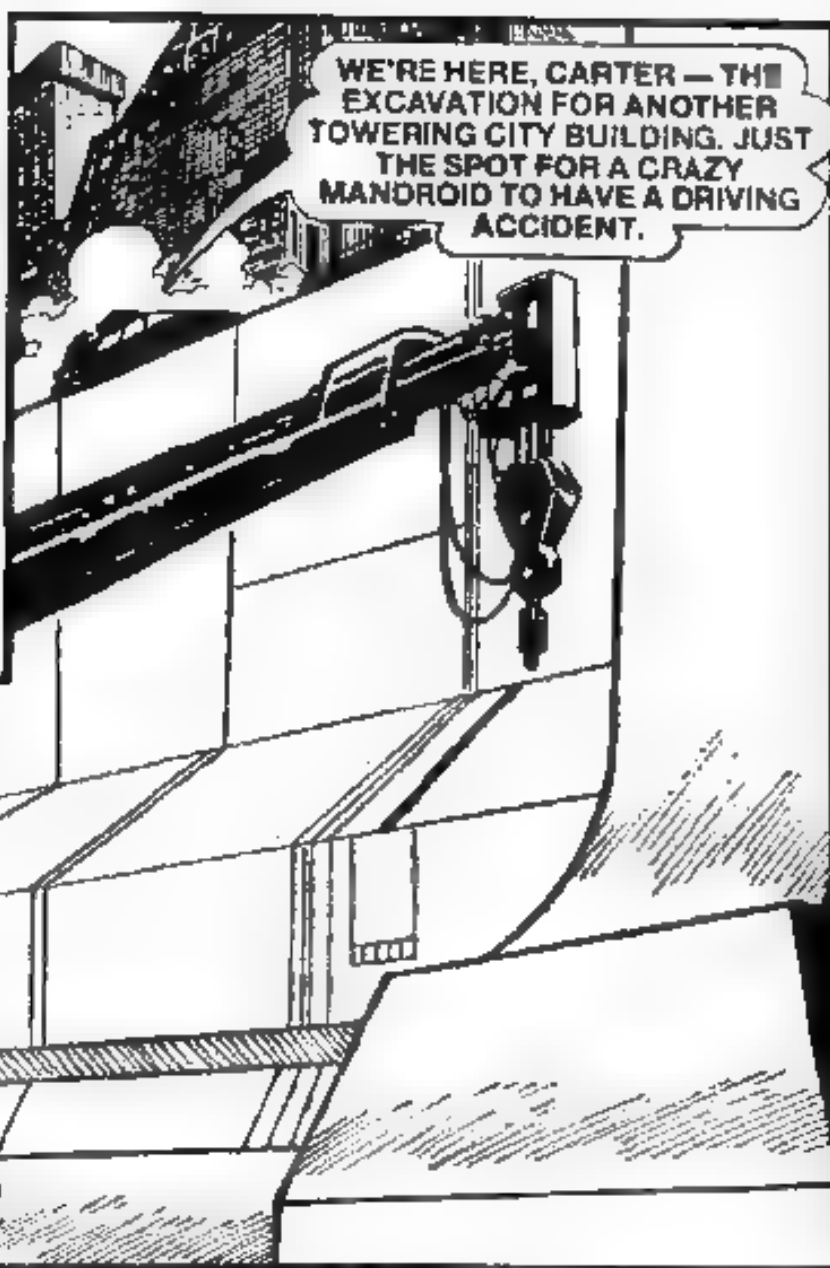
NOW A LITTLE DRIVE —  
JUST YOU AND ME.

OPEN THE BARRIER.

CLICK!

NEGATIVE IDENTITY.  
DOES NOT COMPUTE.

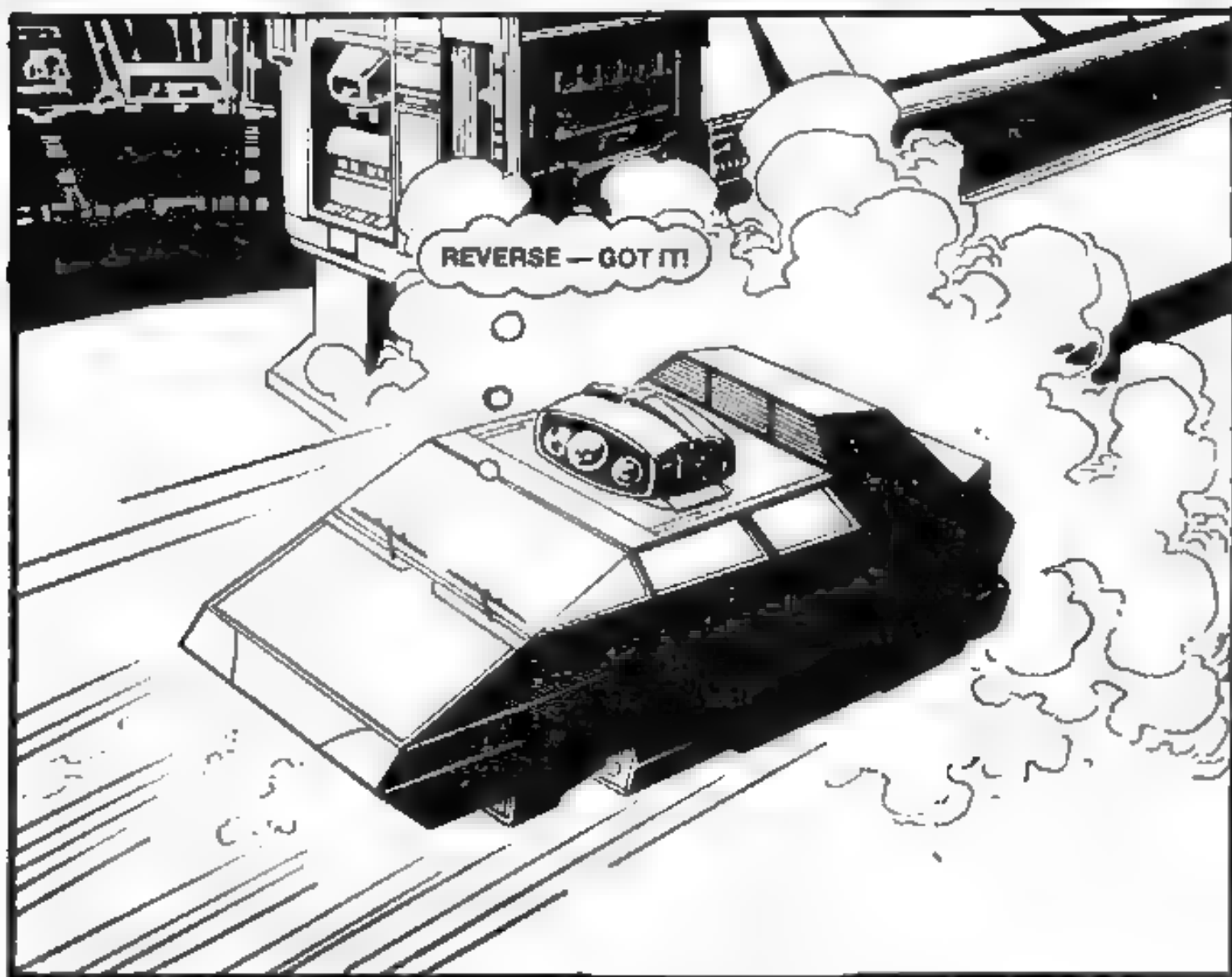


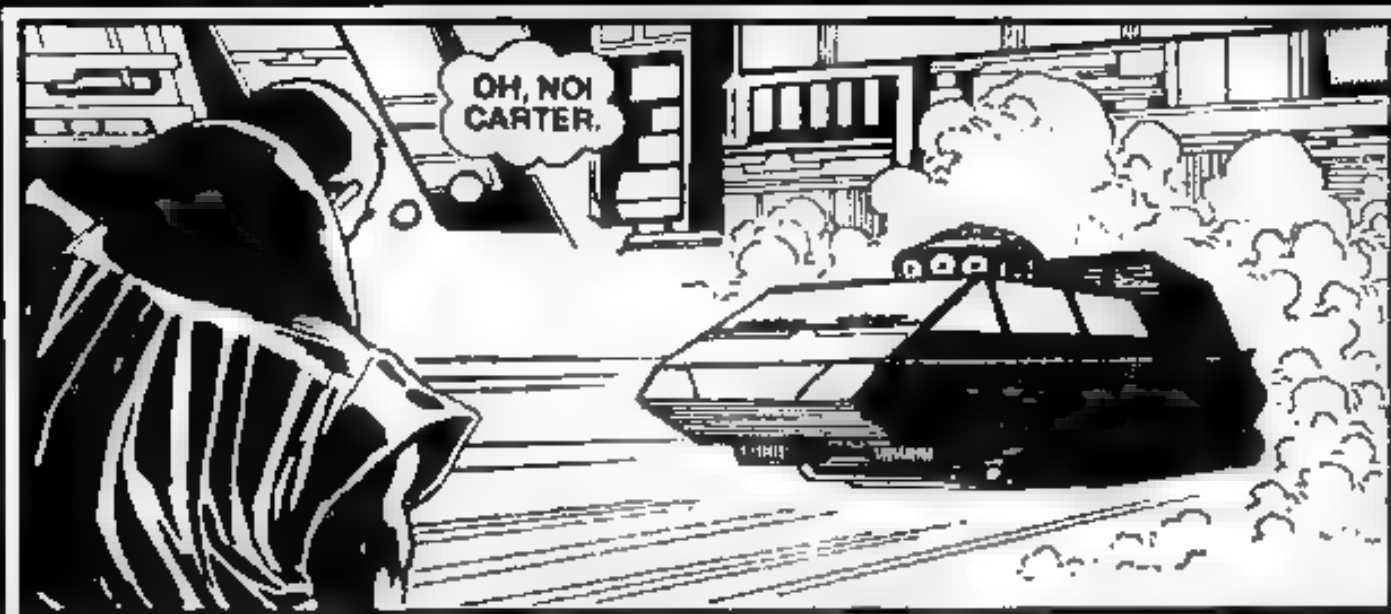


CARTER CONCENTRATED ALL HIS  
ENERGY ON MOVING HIS HAND.



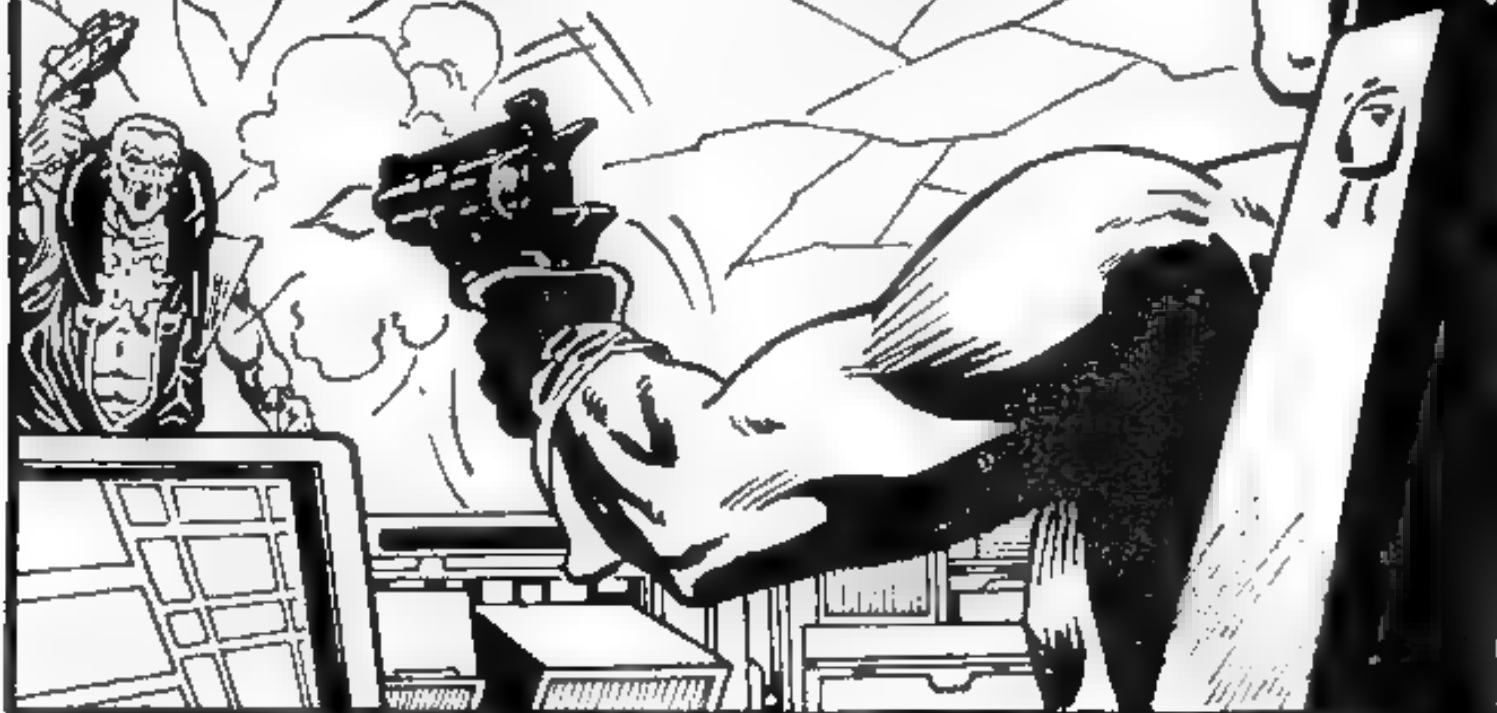
REVERSE — GOT IT!





CARTER MANAGED ENOUGH  
MOBILITY TO FIRE THE SEWER  
RAT'S OLD PISTOL...

**BANG!**







MANDROID KROL BECAME LIFELESS...



ONE NEURON-BLOCK HANDGUN, PERMITS FOR PERSONAL VEHICLE, A SECURITY LOCK DISC, I.D. IN THE NAME OF MAK KROL.



LIKE KROL SAID — THIS IS JUST THE SPOT FOR A CRAZY MANDROID TO HAVE A DRIVING ACCIDENT.

CARTER SET THE VEHICLE ON AUTO AFTER PUTTING HIS I.D. CARDS ON THE BODY.





INITIAL EXAMINATION OF THE REMAINS INDICATES THEY ARE THOSE OF OFFICER CARTER, THE SUBJECT OF A POLICE HUNT ON SEVERAL SERIOUS CHARGES...

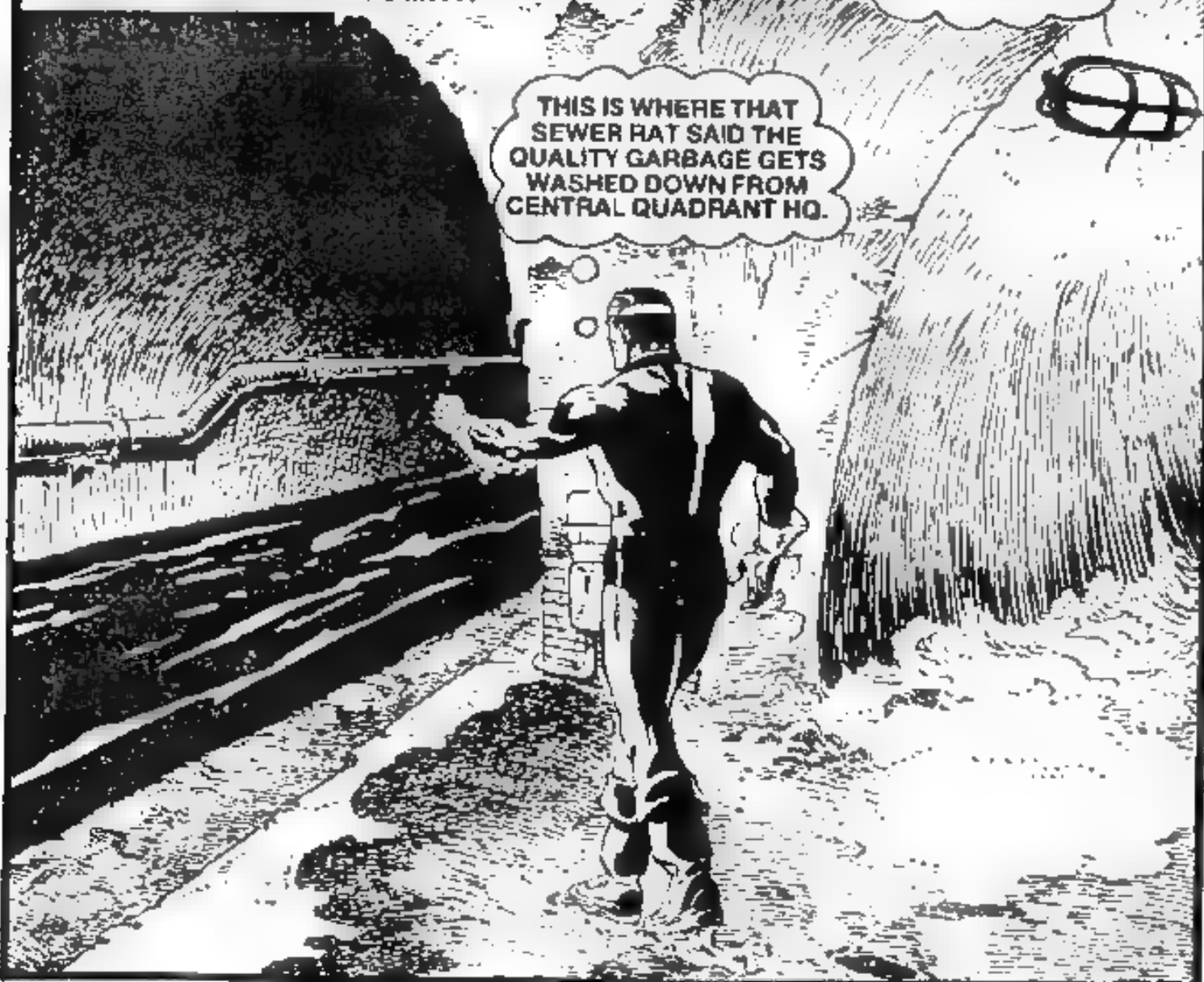
# VIDE

CARTER WENT UNDERGROUND AGAIN...



SHOULD TAKE THE HEAT OFF ME FOR A WHILE. NOW HOW DO I GET A RUNDOWN ON MAK KROL — AS IF I DIDN'T KNOW.

THIS IS WHERE THAT SEWER RAT SAID THE QUALITY GARBAGE GETS WASHED DOWN FROM CENTRAL QUADRANT HQ.





CARTER MADE STEALTHY PROGRESS THROUGH THE NIGHT-SILENT HEADQUARTERS.

NOW TO USE THE CHIEF'S OWN MONITOR FOR A LOOK AT THE HEADQUARTERS' MEMORY BANKS.



CARTER PEEKED ...



MAK KROL IS NEW IDENTITY OF VIOLENT RECIDIVIST SERVING LIFE TERM UNTIL BIOLOGICAL-ELECTRONIC RECONSTRUCTION FOLLOWING SEVERE RADIATION OVERDOSE ■ FUSION FLARE AT PELAN INSTITUTION. SUBJECT PAROLED AFTER SATISFACTORY MENTAL CONDITIONING.

SATISFACTORY, HUH! LET'S DIG DEEPER INTO THIS CASE HISTORY.

CARTER HACKED AT THE MONITOR FOR AN HOUR ...



SO THAT'S WHO DID KROL'S RECONSTRUCTION! CHIEF, YOU ARE IN FOR A BIG SURPRISE.



NEXT MOVE IS TO SEE IF I CAN RENT A HOVCAR ON THE LATE MAK KROL'S PLASTIC CREDIT.

HE COULDI LATER — DRIVING  
INTO THE BACKLANDS...

THERE IT IS! SYMBIONT  
INC — RESEARCH  
CONSORTIUM AND  
AUTOMATED  
CONSTRUCTION PLANT.



THE ENTRANCE OPENED . . .

TWO VISITORS VEHICLES  
HERE — AND I KNOW ONE  
OF THOSE FLIVERS.

822

RESEARCH AND CONTROL  
WILL BE UP IN THE  
GALLERY. VIDSCAN ON THE  
ELEVATORS MEANS I WON'T  
BE ABLE TO RIDE UP THERE.

2

1












I ASSUME YOU WERE NOT  
THE CHARRED REMAINS IN  
THAT BURNED-OUT  
VEHICLE, CARTER.


THAT WAS YOUR BOY KROL,  
DOC — AND YOU ARE UNDER  
ARREST ALONG WITH THOSE TWO  
SLIMY PROFITEERS.



I DOUBT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO  
ENFORCE ANY ARREST AFTER  
YOUR RECYCLED REJECT  
CRYSTALS HAVE BEEN  
SUBJECTED TO A DOSE OF  
FIBRILLATION.

AAAAAAAAA —

THE MACHINE CAUSED CARTER'S MICROCHIPS TO SEND CONFUSED MESSAGES TO HIS LIMBS.



EVERY NERVE END'S  
JANGLING — AHH —  
LOST MY STUNNER.

THE BLAST KNOCKED  
CARTER SKIDDING  
ACROSS THE FLOOR.

PURELY OUT OF INTEREST,  
CARTER — HOW DID YOU GET ON  
TO ME?

THE ANSWER CAME IN A  
FLASH WHEN I FOUND  
YOU'D HANDLED KROL'S  
RECONSTRUCTION, DOC.



TOO BAD IT HAS TO END  
THIS WAY, CARTER. I  
REALLY DO HAVE A HIGH  
REGARD FOR YOU.

SHE'S TRYING TO GET  
AN ANSWER TO PLACE  
WHERE I AM.

CARTER PICKED UP AND  
THREW A BOX OF CIRCUITS.

CARTER, WHERE ARE YOU?  
COME OUT AND TALK.

ON HEARING THE NOISE, SHE TURNED AND FIRED —

SO THERE  
YOU ARE.



NO ... I'M HERE!



CARTER COMPELLED HIS FAILING BIO-ELECTRONICS INTO A LAST DESPERATE EFFORT...

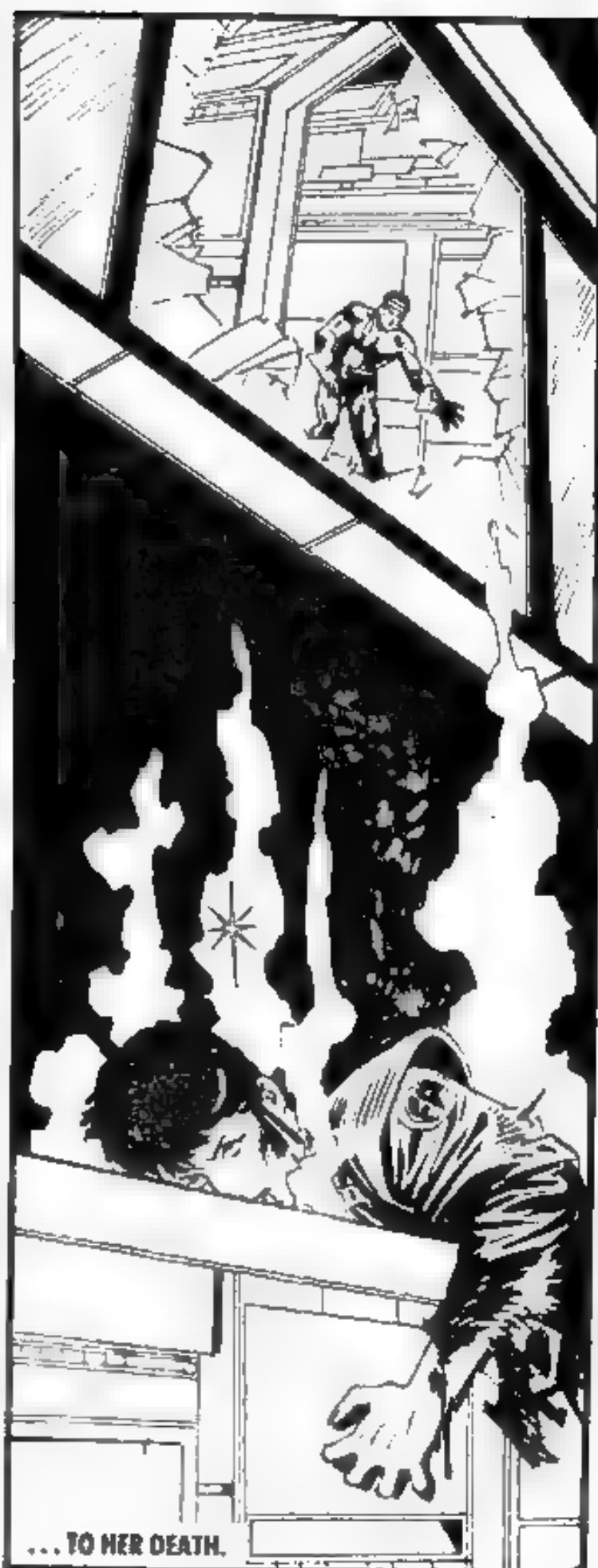
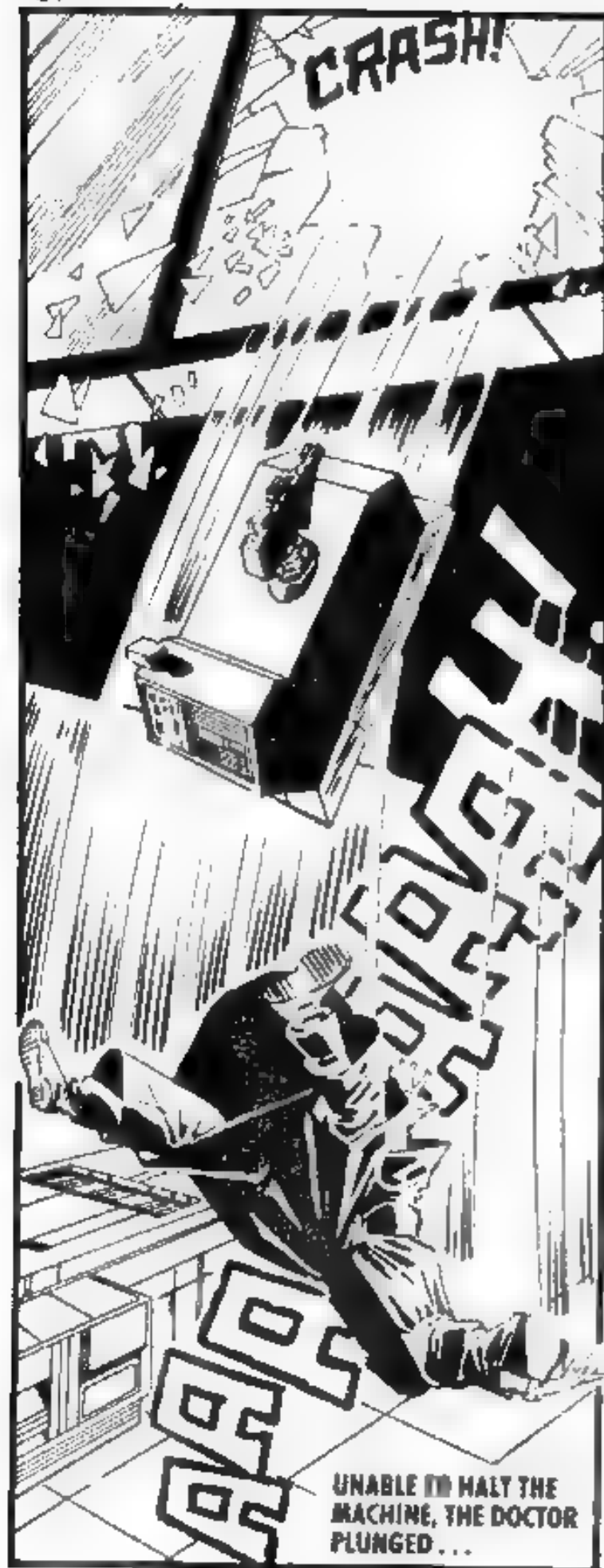


DON'T USE IT AGAIN!


THE HOVERING MACHINE TRUNDLED TOWARDS THE WINDOW —



OH, NO — HELP ME, CARTER — PLEASE!







OFFICER, YOU WILL HAVE NO TROUBLE FROM US. WE WERE REALLY INNOCENT PARTIES TO THIS TERRIBLE BUSINESS.

THEN SHOW WHAT NICE FELLOWS YOU ARE BY MAKING A CALL TO QUADRANT HEADQUARTERS.

ONE WEEK LATER OFFICER NOLAN WAS JOINED BY A FELLOW INVALID ...



HI, CARTER! I HEARD YOU'D HAD TO BE RECONSTRUCTED.

EVERY CHIP REPLACED BY THE OLD TYPE. GOOD TO SEE YOU LOOKING BETTER, NOLAN.

CARTER HAD A VISITOR...

MY CLONE BROTHER AND THE DOCTOR ACQUIRED THE REJECT CRYSTALS, TOOK THE DEPARTMENT MONEY AND SPLIT IT. THEY WERE MAKING A FORTUNE FROM SHODDY MATERIALS!

YEAH... AND IT ALMOST CAUSED THE DEATH OF TWO GOOD COPS, ME AND NOLAN! GREED... A HUMAN FAILING. JUST AS WELL I'M NOT HUMAN!

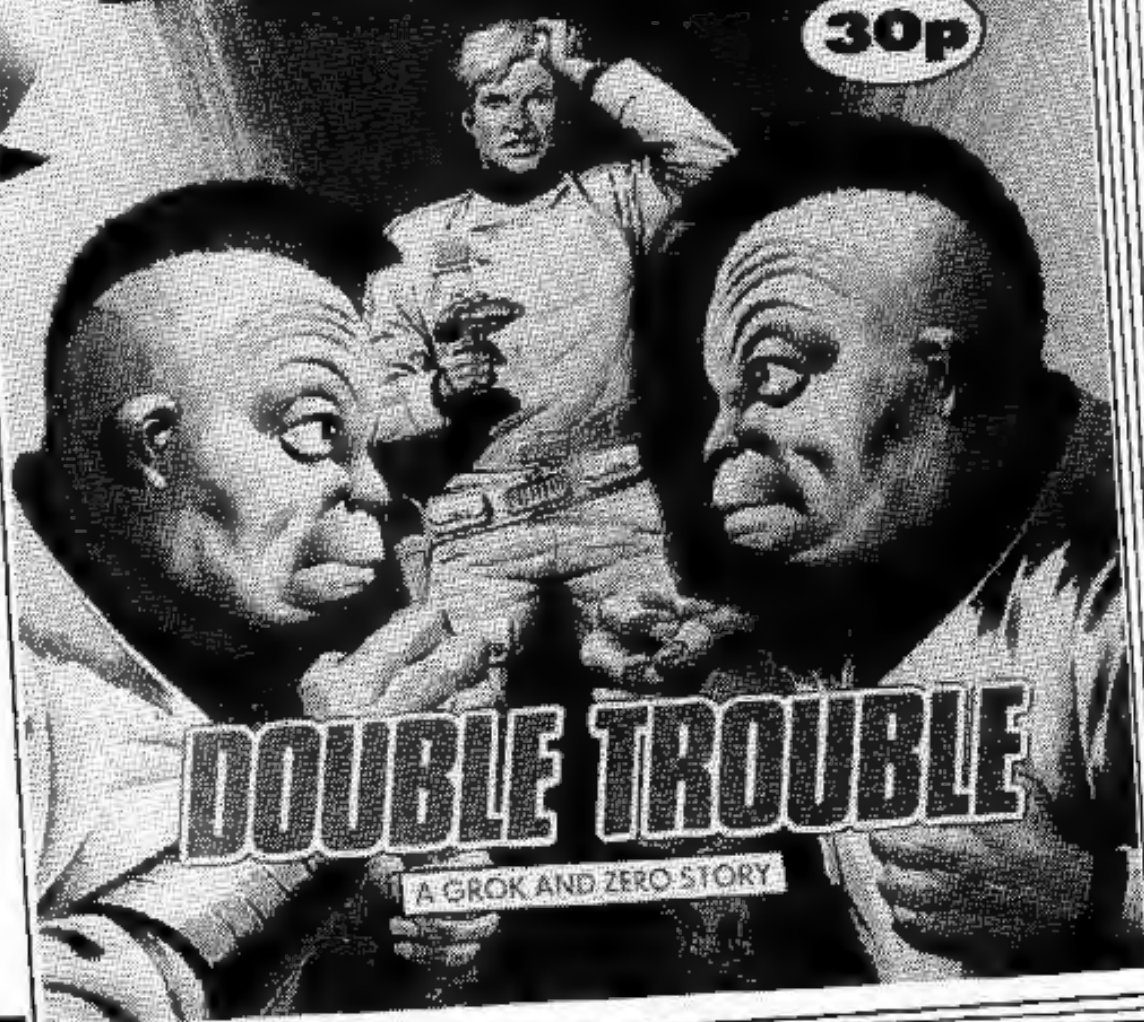
**DON'T  
MISS**

**THIS MONTH'S OTHER  
ACTION-PACKED  
ADVENTURE**

# STARBLAZER

FANTASY FICTION IN PICTURES No. 244

**30p**



**NOW ON SALE**



# ROGUE MANDROID

Carter the super efficient mandroid cop was in big trouble. The bionics that gave him his enhanced reactions were malfunctioning — that was disastrous for him and nearly fatal for his partner. So Carter started investigating in the way only he can . . . and discovered he was a small cog in a giant wheel of corruption.



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